

THE PARISH MESSENGER

A PERSONAL VISITOR TO THE PARISHES

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November 24th

OLD YET EVER NEW— THANKSGIVING PRAYER

*We come, O Lord, these Autumn days,
With hymns of gratitude and praise.
Harvest of gold the plains adorn,
Rich fruits roll forth from Plenty's Horn;
Thou givest treasures from the rocks;
The little hills are clothed with flocks;
The seas are with their burden white,
And new Thy mercies day and night.*

*For all the blessings of Thy hands,
For freedom in fair freedom's lands,
Pursuits of thrift that bring us wealth,
For schools and churches, peace and health,
For commerce, yielding up her stores,
Brought for man's use from distant shores;
For countless gifts, O Lord, we raise
Our hymns of gratitude and praise.*

AMEN.



THE PARISH MESSENGER

News Journal of the Icelandic
Evangelical Lutheran Synod of
America.

Printed quarterly in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

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San Francisco 27 Calif., U.S.A.

THANK YOU . . .

When we presented our Editorial Report to Synod through this column in the June issue, we had fully expected that to be our Swan Song as well. But, to our surprise, you very generously continued us in this office for which we wish to express our heart-felt THANK YOU. We do appreciate your confidence much more than words can tell.

However, more so with this issue than ever before, have we realized the difficulties connected with this long-range Editorship. Both distance and illness conspired to make it impossible to complete manuscript material so that we might have gone to press by the middle of September as we had hoped. Therefore, to all

intentions and purposes, this should be our VALE!

For better or for worse, we shall try our hand again at the December issue hoping that it can be ready for distribution in the churches before Christmas. As distance forbids any back and forth correspondence about manuscripts, we shall have to request, most kindly, that you all favor us with a more prompt response to our call for "ammunition" to publish. Shall we set the closing date as on November 21st?

While we are on the subject of THANK YOU, we must also express our very deep appreciation of your prayerful concern for us during Mrs. Thorlaksson's illness in June, especially during your crowded and busy convention days at Gimli.

The power of intercessory prayer is never to be minimized and the blessings of answered prayers have been experienced so richly over and over again by so many of us in the course of our lives that we instinctively and spontaneously must respond with praise and thanksgiving to God for this great privilege which is ours of interceding for one another. We thank you for exercising this privilege on our behalf.

THE 1955 CONVENTION OF SYNOD A SYMPOSIUM

To fourteen Pastors and to a few Laymen of our Synod we sent the question, "WHAT DID OUR 1955 CONVENTION MEAN TO ME AND TO MY SYNOD?" We hoped for a "bumper crop" of replies. Yes, we are grateful to the few who favored us with replies.

The 1955 convention meant a great deal to the host congregations and to the Pastor loci whose privilege it was for the first time in his ministry to be Host Pastor to a Church Conventoin. It was indeed a spiritual awakening for many of us to have the Synod meet on our own territory and thus to become more intimately acquainted with the Synod and its leaders. To be sure, there is a great deal of hard work in connection

with the hospitality angle of a convention. But we discovered, as others have before, that in giving much we gain a great deal more and that by active participation in such an event we truly grow in appreciation, loyalty and dedication.

The 1955 Convention of our Synod demonstrated beyond any shadow of doubt that the foundations of our Synod which were laid 70 years ago stand secure. The Convention honored the memory of the Synod's Founders by taking forward looking strides which amply testify that God's guidance is still to be trusted even to launching out into the deep in His Name. This was beautifully and best shown by the action of synod pertaining to Betel, our Old

Folks Home at Gimli. It is to be hoped that all Icelandic-Americans will unite in furthering this needful and noble cause.

As a Pastor, I feel that the high point of the Convention was its emphasis given to STEWARDSHIP. When we become aware of our responsibility to our Church and to our God in a material way and give it first place in our thinking, we are at last on the right track. The 1955 Convention of Synod was much concerned about our overall giving, particularly as it relates to benevolence and our apportionment to the ULCA. We spent most of our time studying the Synodical stewardship program and ways and means to improve it. This means that there is an earnest desire on the part of our people to meet their obligations and do better next year. This Parish intends to take seriously the motion made on the floor of Synod to *increase the giving* to the work of the Church at Home and Abroad.

Dr. George Harkins, assistant to the President of the ULCA was the official representative of the ULCA to our Synod. He outlined the whole work of the ULCA in its total program, and told us how this work is carried out through Boards, Agencies and Departments of the Church. We need more of the concrete kind of information such as he gave us to the scope and cost of the on-going program of our ULCA. (Editor, here is where we need THE LUTHERAN in every home in every Parish!)

A very important item presented at this Convention was a handwritten translation of *the Passion Hymns* of Hallgrimur Petursson by Bishop C. V. Pilcher, D.D., of Sydney, Australia. Even as a prose translation the sense of the original is perfectly conveyed and presented in good readable form. This manuscript is now in the hands of a Committee appointed by the Executive Board of Synod to deal with as a sacred trust in the best way possible.

As a Fellowship Gathering the Convention of 1955 was a tremendous success. The two outstanding actions of Synod were in connection with the unanimous desire for the

improvement and continuation of our Old Folks Home, Betel, at Gimli; and the complete realization of our budgeted income. The suggestion that the *Passion Hymns* of Hallgrimur Petursson, translated by Bishop Pilcher of Australia be published in this country for use in the churches of Synod was, in my humble opinion, a valiant one and worthy of immediate fulfillment.

The 1955 Convention was a good one in that the usual air-beating parlaver was quickly discounted and SELF-EXAMINATION became the main theme. We seriously assessed ourselves and our possibilities of raising a budget and accepted the \$10,000.00 mark with the full intention of raising all of it. This Convention was a turning point in our history. The Palaver Era is finished and the NEW LIFE ahead of us, we hope, will be one of building the edifice "not made with hands". It is our business to so construct the House of God in the hearts of our people that they will KNOW how to give and why to give.

This being my first Synodical Convention I had much to learn. And I did learn a lot about what is necessary to make each Parish and the Synod function as witness-bearing organizations. We do need to learn more about the ULCA and especially let each of our parish members obtain more information so that they can individually make up their minds intelligently as to amount and method of support. Another matter of much interest and responsibility is our Old Folks Homes which received very serious consideration and a forward-looking motion for action. These were the two subjects which attracted my special attention.

One Pastor side-stepped the original question and listed a number of "impressions" as follows:

1. Special Convention Auditorium.
2. Good and plentiful Committee rooms.
3. Convenient Dining Quarters.
4. A very well and carefully prepared Agenda.
5. Tremendous activity without anyone becoming exhausted.

(Continued bottom page 4)

SYNOD CELEBRATES 70th ANNIVERSARY

By ERIC H. SIGMAR

Unanimously and enthusiastically the delegates to the convention of the Icelandic Synod voted a \$175,000 financial drive to rebuild "Betel" in Gimli. The need for a "new" Betel had been graphically presented by leading members of its standing committee, the Rev. Sigurdur Olafsson of Selkirk, and Dr. George Johnson of Gimli. The new plans call for a complete renovation of the old building with one section set aside as a nursing home and infirmary. A new building will also be erected with small apartments for elderly married couples.

This action was the outstanding one taken at the 70th anniversary convention of Synod, which began Saturday evening, June 25th, with a banquet in the beautiful lower auditorium of the new Gimli church. Following the banquet Synod President Dr. Valdimar Eylands officially opened the convention, and then presented his annual presidential report which was comprehensive and challenging. The secretary, Rev. H. S. Sigmar, and treasurer, N. O. Bardal, also presented their annual reports.

On Sunday morning the service of Holy Communion was held at 11.00 a.m., in the Gimli church, following an early service held at Betel. The

Rev. S. Olafsson preached the sermon. That afternoon the Anniversary Program was presented with the Rev. K. K. Olafson as main speaker. He, who had served as synod president from 1923 to 1943, sketched some of the 70-year history of synod with insight and wit. The Bishop of Iceland, Dr. Asmundur Gudmundsson, sent greetings delivered by his personal representative, the Rev. Olafur Skulason, who arrived in America with his young bride just in time to be present at the convention. Dr. H. Sigmar of Blaine, Wash., responded to these greetings and expressed his pleasure in representing the United Lutheran Church, and the Icelandic Synod at the consecration of Bishop Gudmundsson in Reykjavik in 1954. Dr. George F. Harkins brought the greetings of the United Lutheran Church in America. Pioneer pastor of the synod, the Rev. Dr. Runolfur Marteinsson, ordained over 55 years ago, recalled pioneer days in the Gimli parish, and he concluded his remarks by congratulating the Gimli congregation and its pastor, H. S. Sigmar, in the wonderful accomplishment of their new church edifice. Sunday evening Dr. Harkins, official representative of the U.L.C.A., presented in a stirring message the whole program of our United Lutheran Church. Choral

6. Closing of Convention as per Schedule.
7. So many young and enthusiastic delegates.
8. The Luther League evening was outstanding.
9. The Summer Camp at Husavik, so well equipped and cared for by the Ladies Aids of our churches, was an added inspiration to many of the delegates and guests.
10. The enthusiastic handling and unanimous disposition of the Old Folks proposition.

A symposium being "a collection of opinions", we must admit that the above summary of replies to our question does present a symposium! But whether or not the original question (which according to one Pastor is a very difficult and pointed one) has been answered, we shall leave to your better judgment, hoping that for the December issue of the PARISH MESSENGER many of you will rally with some real heart-searching reactions (and maybe confessions) as to the intrinsic value of this 70th Convention of Synod to you and your Parish life.

music was presented by the Gimli Choir.

The president's report had revealed advancement in the work of synod and its congregations. Dr. Eylands announced the reception into synod of two new pastors, Olafur Skulason, now called to the Mountain parish, and the Rev. Russel Weberg, called to Calvary Church, Seattle, Wash. It was further announced that a new field is being developed in Silver Heights, a suburban area of St. James, Winnipeg, by the Rev. Eric H. Sigmar. Three young men are now preparing themselves for the ministry from our synod, Dr. Eylands announced. But he reported that despite advancement in our work, that all was not well with the synod. Apportionment payments (for Missions) to the U.L. C.A. lagged far behind most other synods, and congregations "would soon have to awaken to their responsibility in this important part of their stewardship," he stressed. Other matters coming up for discussion and action were: stewardship, evangelism, Lutheran World Action, parish education, etc. The Lutheran Women's League report revealed continued growth in their important program of activity, especially their continuing development and betterment of Sunrise Lutheran Camp. Synodical discussion of the camp and its program drew attention to the fact that its blessed ministry can never even be measured, but that it has a big part in building young lives for Christ and His Church. It was to Sunrise Camp that the convention delegates travelled on Monday afternoon after having been graciously entertained and feasted by the Gimli congregation up to that time. In the spacious dining hall of the camp the Husavick Ladies Aid served a delicious dinner on Monday noon. Synod sessions were conducted in Memorial Hall, Sunrise Camp, till coffee time, and then the convention met in the lovely little Husavick church for the presentation of the stewardship secretary's report, effectively given by Pastor Stefan Guttormsson.

The convention then moved on to Arnes, and in the Hall there, were served a delightful supper. That

evening was "Icelandic Night" in the Arnes Church. Devotions were conducted by Rev. Bragi Fridriksson. Speakers were Rev. Eirikur Brynjolfsson, who spoke on "The Relation of the Icelandic State Church and Our Synod". Rev. Olafur Skulason spoke on the rebuilding of Skalholt in Iceland. Bjorgvin Gudmundsson of Akureyri played recordings of his mixed choir. Erlingur Eggertson of Winnipeg sang an Icelandic solo.

Tuesday, sessions were resumed in Gimli and the evening program was dedicated to Missions and Evangelism. Rev. Johann Fredriksson of Glenboro conducted the opening devotions. Rev. Robert Jack spoke on the Evangelism program from a historical point of view. Rev. Eric Sigmar spoke on Home Missions, dealing particularly with synod's venture in Silver Heights. Pastor Stefan Guttormsson sang a vocal solo.

Sessions concluded on Wednesday after the election of officers: President, Dr. Eylands; Vice-President, Rev. G. Guttormsson of Minneota; Secretary, Rev. E. H. Sigmar; Treasurer, Mr. N. O. Bardal; Stewardship Secretary, S. T. Guttormsson; Statistician, Mr. S. Sigurdson. Rev. B. Fridriksson, editor of "Sameiningin"; Rev. S. O. Thorlaksson, editor of "The Parish Messenger".

Vancouver congregation invited the synod to hold its next convention in their new church which would be built this fall and winter. That evening a thrilling "Youth Night" was held. Pastor Russel Weberg led in devotions and conducted the program. Main speaker was "Caravaner" David Callenberg of Florida; Seminarian Donald Olsen spoke briefly. Musical selections were presented by young people from Gimli church, and by Mr. Sibbie Kristjanson of Seattle. Thus ended a most wonderful "Kirkjuthing". Delegates spoke enthusiastically about the outstanding hospitality of the people and pastor of Gimli Parish. Memorable was a garden supper party on the parsonage lawn on Sunday afternoon. Delegates, as they prepared to leave for home, spoke glowingly of this never-to-be-forgotten 70th anniversary convention of our Icelandic Lutheran Synod.

PARISH NEWS FLASHES

The Gimli Parish

On September 4th we heard our pastor, Rev. H. S. Sigmar, give his farewell sermon, one filled with personal regret that he must part with us, and assurances that Gimli would remain in his heart. We know that he and his wife Ethel and family will long remain in ours. On August 31st a farewell gathering was held in their honour, with a presentation of matching wrist watches suitably engraved. Various members of the congregations of Gimli, Hecla, Arnes and Husavick, paid tribute to their work among us. As we see them depart, with regret, we turn now to look ahead to the future and welcome our new pastor, Rev. Bragi Fridriksson, who comes to us as the unanimous choice of the congregation. He will come to us September 18th, opening his service here with a Family Service at 11 a.m. He has planned a program of work for the young people, Bible classes, Luther

League and Sunday School. In October it is planned that the weekday kindergarten will commence again. We shall be without the services of a parish worker, but Mrs. J. H. Menzies and other volunteer teachers will carry on. As Dr. Frank Scribner put it in his address to Pastor Sigmar, "We shall continue the work begun under your guidance with the help of our new pastor." Meanwhile, we wish God's richest blessings on the Sigmar family in their new field of service at Kelso, Washington.

The Langruth Parish

This being the Thanksgiving season, it behooves us to count our blessings one by one, blessings that our Lord has poured out upon us and for which we often forget to be grateful. We at Langruth are thankful that we have been permitted, with God's help, to carry on the work of our church in its various departments during this past year.



The above picture shows the group of 112 who attended the "Opening Service" of the Silver Heights Lutheran Mission, Eric H. Sigmar, Mission Developer, on Sunday, August 21st. Many in attendance were members of First Lutheran Church who attended the first service as a gesture of good will. Dr. V. J. Eylands, synod president, brought the greetings of the synod, and from his congregation. Dr. R. Marteinsson pronounced the benediction. Pianist and accompanist for the service was Miss Snjolaug Sigurdson of New York City. Mrs. Svava Sigmar sang "Open the Gates of the Temple". Pastor Eric Sigmar preached on the theme "Why the Church?" Attendance has continued to be encouraging at services held since the 21st of August, and Sunday School began on September 11th. The place of worship is the beautiful new Y.M.C.A. in St. James, Manitoba.

We are especially grateful for having had the Rev. Olafur Skulason and his lovely bride (Fru Ebba Sigurdardottir) with us even for a short period this summer on their arrival from Iceland. They endeared themselves to one and all. It is regrettable that their stay could not have been longer. However, there is no room for regrets on this page! We are counting our blessings!

Pastor Skulason instructed and confirmed a group of fine young people, all of whom we know will be a credit to their church. They were: Louise Bott, Linda Thompson, Phyllis Unger, Edward Lasson, Ronald Ingimundson and Harold Johnson.

At another service, Pastor Skulason baptized Deborah June, daughter of Hedwig and Sam Albrecht.

Our summer was touched with sadness by the passing of a revered member of our congregation, Frederick Hildebrand, aged 74. Before coming to Langruth he had resided at Snowflake and Emerson, Manitoba. He is mourned by a large family and many friends. Pastor Skulason officiated at the funeral.

The Mountain Parish

We of the Mountain Parish are happy to welcome Rev. and Mrs. Olafur Skulason to our community.

Rev. Skulason was introduced by Dr. H. Sigmar at services on July 17th and also assisted Dr. Sigmar at the Confirmation and Communion Services. Rev. Skulason's first regular service was on August 21st.

Mrs. Skulason was presented with a miscellaneous bridal shower held at the schoolhouse on August 23rd. There was a short program of selected musical numbers and readings. The tables were decorated with gladiolas and roses and Mrs. Skulason was presented with an orchid corsage. She received many beautiful and useful gifts. Mrs. Skulason thanked the people charmingly with a few well chosen words. Lunch was served by the Deaconesses.

We plan to organize a Luther League, a meeting having been called for September 14th at which time Rev. Skulason will show a film related to the subject. We are very

thankful for Rev. Skulason's able leadership.

The Svold Parish

We are happy to report that we, together with the other congregations of the senior North Dakota Parish, have called Pastor Olafur Skulason of Iceland to serve us. His acceptance gives us hope that our church activities will again go forward. Pastor Skulason was a guest preacher in St. Peter's Church on July 24th. He preached his acceptance sermon on August 28th. Our parish has received this young man and his charming bride with open arms, and they in turn have already endeared themselves to the people. May God richly bless his ministry among us.

Our Sunday School closed its sessions for the summer on July 17th with a children's program and a picnic dinner. We are proud of our excellent attendance record which is as follows: Two received awards for 10 years of perfect attendance; 2 for 9 years; 6 for 7 years; 1 for 6 years; 2 for 5 years; and 8 for 4 years. Many received awards for under 4 years.

Dr. H. Sigmar of Blaine, Wash., our interim pastor during the summer, conducted his last church service for us on June 12th.

One of the older citizens of our community, Asgeir Sturlaugson, passed away at the Cavalier Hospital on July 9th, after an illness of several weeks. Funeral services were conducted by Dr. Sigmar at the church on July 16th.

A beautiful wedding was solemnized at our church on August 19th when Rae Eldean Hillman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Hillman of Akra, became the wife of Private Manford Newell, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Newell of Neche, N.D. Pastor Olafur Skulason officiated at the double ring ceremony. The groom is on leave from the U.S. Army and will leave for Germany in September. The bride will teach school near Hamilton during the coming year. She is also one of our Sunday School teachers.

At a congregational meeting in July, the President appointed a Church Rally Day Committee. This Committee has been working on

plans to increase regular church attendance, the highlight of which will be a Special Rally Day Service early this fall.

The Blaine Parish

During the three months' leave of absence of our Pastor to the senior North Dakota Parish, where he formerly had been the Pastor, he conducted 37 Services of Worship, baptized 20, confirmed 24, ministered at three funerals and one wedding. He also assisted at a number of Baccalaureate Services and Graduation Exercises in the Community.

Church Services have been resumed since the Pastor's return at the beginning of August. After Labor Day, the Sunday School, the Young People's Organizations and the Church Work as a whole will swing into full action.

The Point Roberts Parish

Our Church Work has suffered this past summer due to constantly changing plans and our inability to secure regular services by neighboring Pastors. Also, most of our men-folks have been away in the fishing areas and the women-folks have had to keep the stores or work therein, operating farms and keeping the home fires burning, so that church council meetings have gone by the board.

Our annual Salmon Barbecue was held on the 24th of July and was a huge success. We enjoyed seeing many former residents and all the Old Timers who turned out. This event has taken on community-wide proportions, annually anticipated by former residents and Old Timers as an occasion to re-live the good old times and to cultivate new friendships.

Our Sunday School took a vacation during the month of August. We are now getting ready to start again with the same staff of teachers and are looking forward to a joyous year of study and worship.

On the return of our men-folks, we hope to launch a definite church program of worship and other church activities. Our Confirmation Class has been faithful in its studies and is looking forward to its Day of Confirmation this fall.

The Seattle Parish

Calvary has inaugurated a building fund for a new church. The plan, to go into effect this month, will be known as the "Gift a Month Plan". The idea is that those who are led to accept the plan will pray daily for the building program and give monthly to it until a regular fund raising program can be initiated in the spring.

An eight-day daily vacation Bible school was held the middle of August with 78 children enrolled. Bible study and crafts were taught.

Pastor Weberg was Fireside Chaplain for the U.L.C.A. Bible Camp held at Lutherwood on beautiful Lake Samish, Washington.

The congregation purchased a new mimeograph machine and a number of office supplies for the pastor's study.

The Deacons serve a coffee hour after the 11.00 o'clock worship service on the third Sunday of each month.

The church had as its supply pastor during the Icelandic Synod convention, the Rev. Dr. Thomas D. Rinde, former Dean of Central Lutheran Theological Seminary, Fremont, Nebraska, and now professor of historical theology at the seminary. Dr. Rinde is also a member of the Commission of Adjudication of the U.L.C.A., which is the supreme court of appeal of the Church.

THIS IS PRAYER

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve—I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.
 I asked for help that I might do greater things—I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.
 I asked for riches, that I might be happy—I was given poverty, that I might be wise.
 I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life—I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.
 I got nothing that I asked for—but everything I had hoped for.
 Despite myself, my prayers were answered. I am among all men, most richly blessed.

—An anonymous soldier of the Confederacy.

The United Lutheran Church Convention Toronto, October, 1954

By BARNEY EGILSON

It was my privilege to be one of the 600 delegates to the biennial convention of the United Lutheran Church in America which was held in Toronto, October 5th to 13th, 1954. I propose to give you some of my impressions as a layman, who has been largely unacquainted with this large body of which our own congregations and Synod are members.

I was impressed with the size and strength of our Church. It is easy for us to get into the habit of thinking of our denomination as a small one, for the Lutheran Church ranks fourth in size among the Protestant groups in Canada. However, the United Lutheran Church in America, which is vigorous and has well over 2,000,000 members in North America—represents about one-third of the strength of Lutheranism on our continent, and along with most others of our faith is part of the Lutheran World Federation, which spans the globe. There are over 70,000,000 Lutherans in the world, about half of the total number of Protestants.

The United Lutheran Church is also a member body of the World Council of Churches—which includes most Protestants, and all large Church bodies apart from the Roman Catholic. The Chairman of the Central Committee, which is the highest administrative organ of this World organization of Christians, is Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, who is President of the U.L.C.A.

I was tremendously impressed with the parliamentary gifts of Dr. Fry. He is certainly a master of the art of presiding over a great assembly, as well as being one of Christendom's leading exponents and administrators. He conducted the Toronto convention magnificently although it was a tedious and trying one, dealing largely with constitutional and organizational changes. One could not help but feel at times that much time was consumed in minor details. But a vast amount of detail had to be carefully considered,

for this biennial convention is the legislative assembly of the Church. It represents 32 Synods, each of which might be likened to a Province. Each Synod administers its local affairs similar to the Provincial Government. But the U.L.C.A. can be likened to the Dominion Government, which is a banding together of several provinces—granting to the Federal Government certain powers of administration such as dealings with foreign affairs, and such domestic measures as are of importance to the entire body.

Therefore, the United Lutheran Church represents us in our World outreach. Through the Board of Foreign Missions, we are represented in propagating the Christian faith globally. The U.L.C.A. represents us in planting churches in our own land. Through the Board of American Missions, an average of about one congregation per week is born. Congregations, like ours, are given an opportunity to finance the building of churches and parsonages. Through the Board of Higher Education, our young men can be educated for the Ministry, our young women to become Parish Workers or other workers for our cause. Through the Board of Parish Education materials are prepared for our own and other Sunday Schools. By means of the Board of Social Missions, we help to provide for the handicapped: bibles for the blind, services for the deaf; and its committee on Evangelism is working out a program for bringing more and more people into a vital relationship with the Church. They will be assisting our own Gimli Church with an experimental program next spring, which will be an effort to reach the unchurched and arouse new interest among all of us.

I could go on, but space and time does not permit. Suffice to say, these and other functions of the Church were dealt with and budgets were adopted to make this work possible. I am not going to bore you

with budget figures. Most of us just cannot comprehend the meaning of figures that soar above the million dollar mark, anyway. But I must tell you how these funds are secured. While the governments raise their funds by taxation, the church raises its budget through free will giving, with gratitude to God—not force—as the motivation. The total budget is divided proportionally among all the Synods, which in turn divide the amount they are morally responsible for among the congregations, according to their size. The congregation in turn looks to its individual members to give in order that the great work of the Church of Christ may

go on. Most congregations, like our own, has duplex envelopes for its members. The black side is used for contributions to the local work of the church. Our gifts on the red side are devoted to the world wide and nation wide work of the congregation. We can be joyful in the knowledge that we are privileged to take part, not only in doing Christian work in our home town—which is our first responsibility—but also in some small measure we are part of a Christian movement that knows no national boundaries and which is dedicated to the high purpose of making our Nation, Continent, and World truly Christian.

GIVING THANKS TO GOD

By S. OLAFSSON

Our National Thanksgiving Day draws near. As Christians we have much to be thankful for, personally and collectively. In a specific way, we who love and believe in the work of The Sunrise Lutheran Camp, conducted by the Lutheran Women's League at Husavick, Man., thank God for His protecting care during the ten years the camp has now been in operation.

About 2,000 children and young people have attended the camp during these years. They have been physically refreshed and strengthened. They have come under wholesome Christian influence, which permeates the entire life of the camp; many have been strengthened in their love of Christ, and have seen the Christian ideal at work in a new light, in the daily life in camp. The work of the camp has ever been a venture of faith, and to God we humbly leave the results of faithful and manifold labors and services of the many who direct, lead and labor there.

We are especially thankful that no accidents have occurred during all the years of operation.

Our hearts are moved to sincere thankfulness as we look back over the season just completed, which lives in our hearts in sun-lit memory: the ideal camping weather, which

prevailed throughout the season; the lovely co-operation and spirit of harmonious fellowship; the joy we found in working together in the furtherance of an ideal we all loved. All of us came also under the spell of the peaceful loveliness of the surroundings, which we found conducive to spiritual peace.

For all this we render sincere thanks to God. Speaking as one of the pastors present at the camp, I would say that we are encouraged to go on in faith, trusting that our congregations and people will see in our camp-life a medium of spiritual blessings for growing young people, and using more generally the facilities offered there. Truly we can all be thankful to God for the service of love the camp renders and leave the results and the future in His hands.

Acts 4:31: "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness."

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: Be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.
—Isaiah 41:10.

THE SYNOD TREASURER SPEAKS:—

Receipts To Date

Arnes for Skalholt	\$ 60.00
Vikur, Mountain, N.D., Apportionment Missions.....	50.00
Vidir, Manitoba	50.00

The above payments credited to last year and accepted at convention in Gimli.

Receipts for the Present Synodical Year

Cavalier, N.D., for Foreign Missions.....	\$ 36.20
Vidalins, for Foreign Missions	11.05
Hallson	4.30
Peters	2.45
Bru Ladies Aid, for Sunrise Lutheran Camp.....	10.00
Vidines, Husavik, for Sunrise Lutheran Camp.....	47.86
Sunday School by Mail.....	10.00
Gimli, Pastors' Memorial Fund.....	50.00
Pastors' Memorial Fund.....	62.17
Board of American Missions.....	51.05
Missions Apportionment	73.78
Canadian Lutheran World Action.....	67.85
Vancouver, Missions Apportionment.....	25.00
Blaine, Missions Apportionment.....	22.00
Herdubreid, Langruth, Man., Missions Apportionment.....	120.00
Canadian Lutheran World Action.....	35.00

The congregations are urged to send in their Missions offerings as they receive them. By sending remittances monthly you establish credits for your Church and will find that you have done your share by the year end. Please promote the use of the Red Side.

Your Treasurer has arranged for special rates for delegates and their friends to travel by rail to our next convention in Vancouver. Those who went to Seattle on the special train will recall the big advantages they received and the most pleasant journey. The equipment will be brand new and every effort is now being made to insure the best reservations. North Dakota and Minnesota friends please note that travel is cheaper by this special train. First come first served with best berths on train.

N. O. BARDAL.

BUSY BEING . . .

If you were busy being **kind**
Before you knew it, you would find,
You'd soon forget to think 'twas true
That someone was unkind to you.

If you were busy being **true**
To what you know you ought to do,
You'd be so busy you'd forget
The blunders of the folks you've met.

If you were busy being **right**,
You'd find yourself too busy quite
To criticize your neighbor long,
Because he's busy doing wrong.

If you were busy being **good**
And doing just the best you could;
You'd not have time to blame some
man
Who's doing just the best he can.

If you were busy being **glad**
Although your heart might ache a
bit,
And cheering people who are sad,
You'd soon forget to notice it.

(From a Church Bulletin at the Keflavik
Base, Iceland.)

THE STEWARDSHIP SECRETARY SPEAKS—

If we were to "boil" the sayings of Christ down into as few words as possible, we would find that two words were indispensable to His message. They are: "Come" and "Go".

No Christian has failed to catch the significance and power of Christ's invitation to "Come". Any person who has recognized the death-grip of sin in his life, has been terrorized by his inability to free himself from it, and has answered Christ's invitation to "Come" has found freedom, safety and peace in Him.

Christ's voice, with this invitation, is often the only voice that can penetrate the numbness of grief. And when a sorrow stricken soul comes to Him, He speaks the words of eternal life, as He did to Mary and Martha, and assures us that not even death can break up God's family.

All the wonders of modern medicine may fail to reassure the physically broken. Even the counsel of our own physician may fail to stir hope within us. At such times the invitation of Christ, the Great Physician, has come and we have been strengthened. We are comforted by the knowledge that He who knew pain is our companion in suffering.

Never has an invitation affected so many people. Yielding to it we have brought our sins, grief, pain, fear, and anxiety, and He has taken all these troubles from us and has borne them Himself. In return for this overpowering burden, He has given us salvation, peace, hope, patience, joy, and courage.

Christ's word "Come" symbolizes something vital in our relationship to Him, but it describes only part of it. The other half of our life in Christ is contained in His word "Go". This is not a word of dismissal. Christ does not want to get rid of us. It is the word of a master to his servant. It means, "There is work I want done, go now and do it for Me." And this command is coupled with His promise, "I will be with you always."

Go! Where, specifically? To all nations; to the towns and cities, to the counties and states, to the

islands and continents. Don't miss a place; don't miss a chance.

Go! To whom? To everybody; to your children and relatives, to your friends and neighbors, to your countrymen and people of other countries, to your enemies.

Go! But why? For the glorious purpose of voicing Christ's invitation to others, that they will hear and come, that they will become His disciples also.

Go! How, then? By every means that God has placed at your disposal. God has given you the talents of your personality, use them to sing, to teach, to tell of Christ. God has given you life, take time to go and do these things. God gave you material possessions, learn to give so others may go where you cannot.

These words, "Come" and "Go", are Christ's words, but they are linked together by a human word: "Gratitude". A truly grateful person freely and happily recognizes his infinite indebtedness to Christ, who has invited him to "Come". His thankfulness to Christ is his only real motive for doing what Christ wants him to do, for going where Christ wants him to "Go". Because we have come to Christ, we are Christians. Because we go where He wants, we are Stewards. When we link the two together with gratitude, we have what is called "Christian Stewardship".

S. T. GUTTORMSSON.

WORTH PONDERING

Let it not be said of our Church, "It's cool inside."

It is not the ship in the water, but the water in the ship, that sinks it. It is not the Christian in the world, but the world in the Christian, that destroys him.

A biologist watched an ant carrying a burden of straw which seemed too big for it. It came to a crack in the earth too wide to cross. The ant stood for a while as if wondering what to do; then it put the straw across the crack and walked over it. What a lesson for us! The burden can become the bridge to progress.